

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0037] on pages 10-11 as follows.

**[0037]** Once the truncated singleton values have been determined, the final step 106 of the method is defuzzification where the three characteristic output values for the selected edge path are combined using an averaging union of singletons (TVFI method) or a centroid averaging (Mandini method) to determine a crisp output value for the central pixel. More particularly, the defuzzification process takes the union of the truncated singleton values illustrated in FIG. 6, and then takes their weighted average to generate a crisp output value of 0.71 as shown in FIG. 7. In contrast with the Mandini method, the TVFI method does not need to determine the centroid of the resultant fuzzy set. The final output value of the central pixel is generated by multiplying the full grayness level (255 for 8-bit gray-scaled images) and its respective edginess degree (a number between 0.0 and 1.0). This results in assignment of a new gray level value to the pixel that is directly proportional to the pixels' edginess degree. The algorithm then queries at step [[110]] 108 whether all pixel windows have been evaluated. If not, the algorithm selects the next pixel at step 110 and returns to step 100 to repeat the foregoing process until each pixel in the image has been characterized based on its degree of edginess. Once all pixels have been characterized, the application is done at step 112.